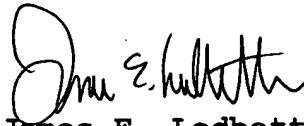


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment eliminates the multiple dependent claim status of claims 3-7, 12 and 13 in order to avoid the multiple dependent claim surcharge. New claims 16-26 recapture the subject matter from the amended claims.

Early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Ledbetter
Registration No. 28,732

Date: January 31, 2005

JEL/spp

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. L8462.04152

STEVENS, DAVIS, MILLER & MOSHER, L.L.P.
Suite 850
1615 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: (202) 785-0100
Facsimile: (202) 408-5200